



MEMORANDUM

Date: October 14, 2022

To: The Honorable Chair and Members
Pima County Board of Supervisors

From: Jan Leshner 
County Administrator

Re: **Inquiry from *60 Minutes* Regarding the 2020 Election Results**

A CBS News associate producer for 60 Minutes has asked the Elections Department and at least one Board Member for a County response to claims made by some who question the validity of the 2020 Election that Pima County had some precincts in the 2020 General Election record more votes than registered voters.

This claim is absolutely false.

The Communications Office responded to the reporter. If Board Members receive inquiries about this claim, the below is a summary of the response sent to 60 Minutes:

That conspiracy came from [this video](#) last year by Shiva Ayyadurai, who has attained some national notoriety by participating in a number of controversies including the audit of 2020 ballots cast in Maricopa County. The Communications Office in reviewing Ayyadurai's claim surmised that he either purposely misrepresented two sets of data – early ballots mailed in a precinct, and early ballots cast in a precinct – or perhaps he was unaware of [Arizona's early voting elections procedures](#).

This is the [official canvass of the 2020 Pima County Election](#) as approved by the Board of Supervisors. As you can see, there were no precincts that had more votes than voters.

Most voters in Pima County voted by early ballot in 2020. Because of the pandemic, we did a heavy communications push to encourage people to vote by mail or to vote early to avoid COVID exposures waiting in lines at polling places on Election Day. We were wildly successful – about 9 out of 10 ballots cast in Pima County in the 2020 General Election were by early ballot.

However, while all mailed ballots are early ballots, not all early ballots are mailed ballots. The County Recorder's Office staffed several early voting locations around the county during the month preceding Election Day when early voting occurs in Arizona. When a voter votes at an Early Voting Center, they are casting an early ballot. The ballot is placed in the same affidavit envelope as a mailed ballot and processed the same way as a mailed early ballot at the Elections Center.

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About 30,000 voters cast an early ballot at an early voting site in 2020. In several precincts, many voters who did not get a mailed ballot went to Early Voting Centers and voted an early ballot. Because of this, it is possible, if not likely that in some small precincts there were more early ballots cast than there were mailed early ballots. This may be what confused Ayyadurai.

It is unclear which data sets Ayyadurai used to come up with his claims. It clearly was not the official canvass. It is without question that Pima County ran a fair, accurate, and legal election in 2020.

JKL/anc

c: The Honorable Gabriella Cázares-Kelly, Pima County Recorder
Carmine DeBonis, Jr., Deputy County Administrator
Francisco García, MD, MPH, Deputy County Administrator and Chief Medical Officer
Steve Holmes, Deputy County Administrator
Mark Evans, Director, Communications Office
Constance Hargrove, Director, Elections Department